

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 10, 12, 14, 17, 22 and 23 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-36 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 10, 12, 14-15, 17-21 and 23-36 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 10, 12, 14, 17 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 10, 12, 14-15, 17-21 and 23-36 are now allowable.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chi (US 5,575,540). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the support is dimensioned so that a space is formed between a radially outer portion of the support and an inner peripheral surface of the adapter member when the seal assembly is mounted to the bicycle. Similarly, independent claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the seal assembly is dimensioned so that a space is formed between a radially outer surface of the base member and an inner peripheral surface of the adapter member when the seal assembly is mounted to the bicycle.

Chi discloses a bicycle hub with a hub shell (50) and an axle (60) rotatably supported within hub shell (50) by bearings (90). A dust cap (71) is screwed into hub shell (50) such that external threads (711) on dust cap (71) engage internal threads (51) on hub shell (50). A fixing ring (72) screws onto the external threads (711) on dust cap (71) and abuts against a side edge of hub shell (50) to fix dust cap (71) to hub shell (50). Insofar as dust cap (71) is interpreted to be a support, then there is no space between a radially outer portion or surface of the support and an adapter member. Also, there is no suggestion to form such a space between dust cap (71) and hub shell (50) because that would destroy the threaded coupling between dust cap (71) and hub shell (50).

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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PATENT

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